



**February 2008**

# ***Sutter/Yuba County News***

1521 Butte House Rd., Suite A

Yuba City, CA 95993 (530) 671-0850 x2

## **Sutter/Yuba County FSA Hours**

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

**Website**  
**[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)**

## **Sutter/Yuba County Committee**

Tim Inderbitzen,  
Chairperson  
Stephen Waltz,  
Vice-Chairperson  
Michael Chesini, Member  
Gary Spangler, Member  
Debra Tarke, Member  
Kulwant Johl, Advisor

## **County Executive Director**

Joel Twitchell

## **Farm Loan Manager**

Ehab El Liessy

## **County Office Staff**

Kathy Bowman, CPT  
Lynette Filter, PT  
Cheryl Giyer, FLO  
Margarita Gutierrez, PT  
Jatinder Kullar, FLO  
Amandeep Sandhu, PT  
Janet Silva, PT  
Angela Walker, PT  
Karl Warmuth, PT

## **Holiday Closures**

**February 18** – Presidents  
Day  
**May 26** - Memorial  
Day  
**July 4** - Independence  
Day

## **Disaster Eligibility Date Extended**

Eligible farmers and ranchers who suffered livestock, livestock feed and crop losses that occurred before December 31, 2007, can now apply to receive disaster payments.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting applications and making payments for quantity losses under Crop Disaster Program (CDP) that occurred before December 31, 2007. FSA is currently issuing LCP and LIP payments for losses that occurred up to February 28, 2007, and will soon issue payments for losses incurred during the remainder of 2007. FSA will conduct sign-up and begin making payments for quality losses under CDP this spring. More information about CDP, LCP and LIP is available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

**Note:** Due to the volume of CDP sign-ups and the processing required, no date can be announced at this time. We are working diligently and will make payments as soon as possible.

The Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program, which provides benefits to eligible dairy producers for production losses suffered as a result of natural disasters since January 1, 2005, has also been extended to include disasters occurring before December 31, 2007.

As a result, DDAP-III sign-up, which began December 3, 2007, has been temporarily suspended until such time as automation, policy, procedure and other administrative items can be updated accordingly. FSA will announce when DDAP-III program sign-up will resume.

If you are a dairy producer considering sign up for the Dairy Disaster Program, check with your nearest Service Center office for resumption of sign up.

## **NAP Production Reporting**

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2007 production records as soon as harvest is complete.

***All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.***

## **NAP Coverage Deadline**

March 1, 2008 is the deadline date for producers to apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by March 1, 2008, the closing date for 2008 spring seeded crops including vegetables.

The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop.

**Remember:** NAP coverage is available for any crop that is not insurable through crop insurance.

## **RECORD CHANGES**

Participation in FSA farm programs requires all records to be accurate and up to date. It is the producer's responsibility to inform FSA of changes to his/her farming operation including, but not limited to, land ownership changes, adding or dropping a tract of land (leases), entity type or ID number changes, marriage, divorce, deaths or changes in your financial institution for direct deposit. A copy of the deed must be submitted for ownership changes; copies of written lease agreements must be submitted for all cash leases.

## **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

Payments from FSA are required by law to be directly deposited into a producer's savings or checking account. Our office will send you a transaction statement indicating the payment type and amount. All producers were required to have initiated Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) by January 1, 1999. Any person may request a waiver of EFT if it poses a financial or personal hardship. It is important that any changes to your account be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.



## **Kansas City Mails 1099-G**

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2007. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user IDs and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data. If you choose to visit the office, bring your CCC-1099-G with you.

## **SUCCESSION-IN-INTEREST**

If you have made any changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county committee by Sept. 30, so that a final determination can be made on who is program eligible on the property.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-

interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

A revised CCC-509, Direct and Counter-cyclical Program Contract, with all succession changes must be complete with all signatures by September 30 for payments to be distributed.

**Note:** *Changes that require a reconstitution must be reported to the county committee by August 1st of the fiscal year in which the change occurred.*

## **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL)**

The Farm Service Agency offers seven-year, low-interest loans to grain producers to build new or upgrade existing storage facilities and related essential, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment. Loan opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins, oxygen-limiting and other upright silo-type structures, and flat-type storage structures designed for whole grain storage,
- Perforated floors, safety equipment, quality improvement equipment, electrical equipment and concrete components considered essential for a fully functional storage facility,
- Remodeling existing storage facilities to increase storage capacity.



**Ed Schafer** was sworn in as the 29th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on January 28, 2008. Secretary Schafer brings a record as an innovative two-term governor of North Dakota to USDA along with extensive private sector experience as both an entrepreneur and a business executive.

For Secretary Schafer's complete background, visit "About USDA" at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).



### **CHESINI Voted to County Committee**

Congratulations! Michael Chesini was elected to the Sutter - Yuba County Committee to represent LAA-2.

Farm storage facility loans must be approved prior to site preparation, equipment purchase or construction, and must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. Special provisions apply for loans exceeding \$50,000.

The maximum loan amount will be 85% of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment, not to exceed \$100,000 per borrower. A minimum down payment to the supplier or contractor is required to bridge the gap between the net cost of the storage facility and the loan amount.

Fixed interest rates on farm storage facility loans are equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury Securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. As of October 2007, the annual interest rate is 4.375 percent.

For detailed applicant and facility eligibility criteria regarding Farm Storage Facility Loans, and to schedule an appointment to file an application, contact the County office at 530-671-0850 ext.2 or visit FSA at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

### **NASS Statistical Surveys**

*Have you been asked to participate in a survey with USDA's Agriculture Statistics Service?*

The Quarterly Agricultural Surveys, conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provide inventory and production estimates for crops and livestock at state and national levels. Each quarter a list sample of farm operators are contacted by mail, telephone or personal interview for inventory information on the land they operate. Sample segments also screened for farm operators.

*Why is it important for producers to participate in these surveys?*

*Because...*

Statistical information on acreage, production, stocks, prices, and income is essential for the smooth operation of Federal farm programs. It is also indispensable for planning and administering related Federal and State programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation and environmental

quality, trade, education, and recreation.

Moreover, the regular updating of information helps to ensure an orderly flow of goods and services among agriculture's producing, processing, and marketing sectors. Reliable, timely, and detailed crop and livestock statistics help to maintain a stable economic climate and minimize the uncertainties and risks associated with the production, marketing, and distribution of commodities.

### **Direct and Guaranteed Loans Available**

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available now.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Loan funds are available now-apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. Most of our loan programs have special funding available for minority, female and beginning farmers.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, call 530-671-0850 ext. 109.

### **2002 Farm Bill "Partial"**

#### **Extension**

The 2008 catch all spending bill signed by President Bush on Dec. 26, 2007, extends FSA's authority to administer the Conservation Reserve Program and marketing loan benefits for wool and mohair through March 15, 2008. It also allows the Milk Price Support Program to continue operating at current price support levels through March 15, 2008. Under the 2002 Farm Bill, USDA's authority to administer these three programs expired on Dec. 31, 2007.

The law also provides \$3.3 billion in direct and guaranteed loan funds for FSA's Farm Loan Programs.



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### **YOUTH LOANS AVAILABLE**

With the continuing school year, many young people are planning their 4-H, FFA or other organized youth group projects... Consider FSA youth loans for financing these endeavors.

Why...because there is no better time than the present to teach financial responsibility and establish a good credit history.

Eligibility for a rural youth loan requires that the applicant be between the ages of 10 and 20 and a US citizen. Applicants must live in a town of less than 10,000 people and prove they are unable to secure a loan elsewhere to conduct a modest income-producing project. An advisor must be identified who will provide technical supervision and assistance, typically a High School Ag Science teacher or 4-H leader, and a letter of recommendation from a parent or guardian must be submitted.

FSA loans cannot exceed \$5000 and are available to sponsor different types of projects in livestock, crop production, lawn and garden services, repair shops and roadside stands.

For more information on youth loans, contact Farm Loan Program at (530)671-0850 ext. #109.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information ( Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.